[English]

Impact of INSAT-2D on VSAT/NSE

133. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether INSAT-2D nas been declared non-functional due to failure of its power buses;

(b) whether the Government have enquired into sudden failure of its power buses;

(c) if so, the findings thereof;

(d) the impact of non-functioning of INSAT-2D on VSAT operators, including the National Stock Exchange; and

(e) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that working of VSAT operators in not adversely affected as a result of non-functioning of INSAT-2D?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Several technical committees have been set up to carry out detailed analysis of the failure. A senior level Committee with technical experts drawn from several academic and R&D institutions has also been set up. The Committee is expected to complete its task by January, 1998.

(d) At the time of failure of INSAT-2D, only seven transponders (four in Normal C-band and three in Extended C-band) had been loaded. The four Normal C-band trasponders were carrying Multiple Channel per Carrier (MCPC) traffic of the Department of Telecommunications (DOT). The three Extended C-band transponders were carrying V-SAT traffic including NSE traffic. Following the INSAT-1D and INSAT-2C. The Extended C-band traffic was redeployed using the spare capacity kept ready on INSAT-2C and also by readjusting the transponder utilisation on INSAT-2B and 2C. NSE traffic has been presently moved to INSAT-2A. Subsequently, NSE will be moved to INSAT-2B/2C in a phased manner.

(e) Measures have been taken to make available some spare capacity in Extended C-band as a back-up to the V-SAT services by shifting the regional TV services operating in the Extended C-band to Normal C-band. Efforts are also underway to augment the in-orbit capacity in Normal C-band and Extended C-band.

Privatisation of Power Sector

134. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to woo large investments in power sector;

(b) if so, whether the Government have announced direct negotiations and subsidy funding for projects nearing completion and for rehabilitation and modernisation of ageing power plants;

(c) the extent to which this decision is likely to encourage the investors; and

(d) the number and names of investors who have come forward to invest in power sector after this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government has recently set up a Standing Independent Group under the Chairmanship of Justice P.N. Bhagwati, retired Chief Justice, Supreme Court to establish parameters for negotiation of power projects proposed by foreign agencies/companies. There would be no subsidy funding for these projects which would be new power generation projects. Government has provided a net budgetary support of Rs. 200 crores for interest subsidy under the 'Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme' which covers:—

(a) Generation projects

(b) Renovation & Modernisation and life extension schemes.

(c) Supply and augmentation (capacitors/meters and transmission schemes)

(d) Grant for studies.

This interest subsidy will help in mobilisation of investment of over Rs. 1000 crores in the power sector this year.

Shortage of Power in Kerala

135. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has struck a deal with West Bengal to get more power from West Bengal to Kerala in view of the shortage of power in the State; and